

**Paso Robles Groundwater Basin**

# **Plumbing Retrofit Program Operations**

**Overview:**

The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Plumbing Retrofit Program replaces older plumbing fixtures in existing homes in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. Retrofits are performed at no cost to the homeowner, and are paid for by new development applicants who need to offset projected water use to meet the requirements for water neutral new development.

**Background:**

New development in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin must offset projected new water use at a 1:1 ratio prior to building permit issuance. The volume of water that must be offset will be determined during the building permit process. The offset amount is standardized for all new residential uses. All new single family dwelling units are required to purchase offset from a County-run water conservation program or through one of the other options detailed in Title 19.07.042 in the amount of 300 gallons/day, unless specific and adequate evidence, as determined by the Director, is submitted during the building permit application process indicating that some other amount is more appropriate. Water demand and resultant offset requirements for new commercial uses will be set by the Director on a case-by-case basis using actual water use data to the extent practicable. The plumbing retrofit program is one of two County-run programs operated to generate water savings that are tracked and made available for purchase by applicants for new development.

**Applicability:**

- Property must be in the area subject to Water Neutral New Development requirements for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.
- Existing toilets must use more than 1.6 gallons per flush to qualify for replacement.
- Existing showerheads must use more than 1.5 gallons per minute to qualify for replacement.

**Availability:**

Plumbing retrofits are performed on a first-come/first-served basis pending funding availability. Because the program is paid for by applicants for new development, funding availability can vary. The County will maintain an interest list when program funding is not available.

**Program Operation:**

The County facilitates the retrofitting of plumbing fixtures to generate water savings for new development. The County contracts with a private contractor to operate the program. The contractor performs retrofits using a licensed plumber and maintains documentation on retrofits performed and water saved. Retrofit credits are calculated based on the water use of existing fixtures, the water use of

## Exhibit H – Plumbing Retrofit Program

replacement fixtures, standard daily use amounts from the California Green Building Code, and average household size for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

### **Replacement Fixtures:**

Replacement fixtures are high performing to minimize misuse that might reduce total water savings. Replacement toilets are high performing and rated a minimum of 600 by the California Urban Water Conservation Council Maximum Performance Testing Program.

### **Alternative:**

Applicants can choose to hire a licensed plumber to perform plumbing retrofits instead of participating in the County-run program. Detailed evidence of retrofit work performed and savings generated must be submitted. Interested applicants should contact the Department of Planning and Building prior to beginning retrofit work to obtain submission requirements.